Production of steel in SAIL units

1359. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various steel units in the country under SAIL have not done well during the second quarter of 1988 as compared to the first quarter of 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of steel produced by various plants during the last six months of this year with the details of steel produced during the same period of last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The production during the second quarter of 1988 is not comparable with that of the first quarter. The targets are different for these two quarters in view of varying equipment availability due to capital repairs etc. The target fulfilment for the two quarters and the details of production during the 6 months of 1988 as compared to the corresponding period of 1987 are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 56.

Sugar cane production

1360. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite severe drought sugar-cane production has touched the highest even during 1987-88; and

(b) if so, what was the Statewise production this year as compared to last two years and also the per hectare Yield in each state during each of these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) All India production of sugarcane during the crop year 1987-88 is currently estimated at 179.8 million tonnes, as compared to the best ever production of 189.5 million tonnes recorded in 1982-83.

(b) Does not arise.

Price of sugar

1361. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state whether *despite increase in sugarcane production* prices of both levy and non-levy sugar were increased during the last three years, if so, the details of the increased prices and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): There has been increase in availability of sugarcane to sugar factories during the last three seasons. However, in order to benefit the farmers, the statutory minimum price of sugarcane has been increased. The increases in statutory minimum price are as follows:

Sugar Season	Statutory minimum sugarcane price linked to 8.5% recovery with proportionate increase for higher recoveries
	(Rupees per quintal of cane)
1985-86 . . .	16 50
1986-87 . . .	17 00
1987-88 . . .	18.50

Levy prices are based on the statutory minimum price of sugarcane and the manufacturing cost of sugar as per statutory provisions. Since there has been increase in the statutory minimum price of sugarcane as also manufacturing cost of sugar as recommended by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, the ex-factory levy prices have been revised. Ac-

ordingly, the retail issue price for distribution through Public Distribution System has been fixed as under:

Effetive from	Rs. per kg.
1-12-1985	4.80
15-12-1986	4.85
1-1-1988	5.10

The prices of non-levy sugar are governed by the market forces of demand and supply. These have been generally steady for the last three years. In the last few weeks, there has been some increase due to speculative tendencies. Government has already initiated measures to contain this price increase.

Investment in rural sector

1362. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Economic Planners, Social Scientists, Administrators and Voluntary Agencies engaged in Rural upliftment have suggested for more investment in the rural sector and emphasized that this should be as far as possible oriented to generate employment and income on a substantial basis;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Various types of suggestions have been made for strengthening the poverty alleviation programmes including a suggestion to the effect that more investment need be made in these programmes.

(b) and (c) The Government on its own has been making enhanced allocations for investment in rural sector since the beginning of the current Plan. Against the Seventh Plan outlay of Rs. 6105.89 crores, the expenditure during the first three years (1985—88) of he Plan and the budget allocation for 1988-89 adds up to Rs. 7888.50 crores. The Seventh Plan outlay for employment generation programmes of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Gurantee Programme (RLEGP) was Rs. 2994.59 crores. Against that, the expenditure in 1985-88 and allocation for 1988-89 adds up to Rs. 4837.29 crores. The expenditure/allocation in the first four years of the Plan is thus 161.53 per cent of the entire plan allocation.

Locust invasion in the country

1363. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India" of the 27th June, 1988 wherein it has been stated that intensive spraying has failed to halt a plague of desert locusts which is the biggest in thirty years in Africa.

(b) whether it is also a fact that this locusts invasion has already swept through not only Africa but also crossing the Red Sea may reach India within a year; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any arrangement for the likely locusts attack in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the reports of Food and Agriculture Organisation, locusts have